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Vol. 21, No. 14/January 12, 1999

Volunteers Magazine

NEWS FROM THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

VOLS NO. 1!

Tennessee Sports Photography

INSIDE:

8 Comments from Coach Phillip Fulmer on Tostitos Fiesta Bowl

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A Father's Prayer...

From a speech by Archie Manning on September 29, 1988:

Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

Build me a son whose wishbone will not be where his backbone should be; a son who will know Thee - and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge.

Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail.

Build me a son whose heart will be clear, whose goal will be high; a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past.

And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor, so that he may always be serious yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength.

Then I, his father, will dare to whisper, "I have not lived in vain." - *Douglas MacArthur*

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Smokey's Tale
Volunteers
Magazine

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FROM THE EDITOR. . .

Here's a look at Tennessee football, by the numbers

1 Tennessee wins its first consensus national championship since 1951.

2 The Vols have won the last two Southeastern Conference titles. UT has won back-to-back league championships just three other times (1938-39; 1939-40; 1989-90).

3 Tennessee's 1998 SEC Championship marked the Vols' third league title in the 1990s.

4 This year marked the fourth consecutive season that Tennessee has amassed at least 10 victories in a season. The Vols are 45-5 (.900) the past four seasons, the winningest four-year period in school history.

6 The Vols had six victories over ranked teams this season, including two wins against BCS bowl teams (Syracuse and Florida).

7 Tennessee's defense held seven opponents to 14 points or less and held eight under 100 yards rushing this season. The Vol defense ended the 1998 campaign ranked sixth nationally in rushing defense, 9th in scoring defense and 17th in total defense.

8 Tennessee finished its league schedule with an 8-0 SEC record, the Vols' first undefeated league mark since the 1967 team won the title with a 6-0 ledger.

9 Despite losing tailback Jamal Lewis to a knee injury in the fourth game of the season, the Vols had a running back rush for at least 100 yards in nine games this year. Travis Henry (5), Lewis (3) and Travis Stephens (1) each had 100-yard rushing days this season. Tennessee is 56-1-2 when they have a back rush for 100 yards in a game in the 1990s.

10 Tennessee's Fiesta Bowl appearance was the Vols' 10th consecutive postseason game and 17th in the last 18 years. The 10-year bowl streak ties the school's longest established from 1965-74.

11 The Vols' 11-0 mark during the regular season was Tennessee's first undefeated campaign since the 1956 team went 10-0 en route to earning a Sugar Bowl bid. This year marks the seventh time (1938-50-70-89-95-97-98) that the Vols have won at least 11 games in a season and the third time under head coach Phillip Fulmer. Fulmer has now been part of 11-win teams as a player (1970), assistant coach (1989), and as head coach (1995-98).

12 Tennessee's 13 victories this season, including the win in the SEC Championship, is the most ever in a season by the Volunteers.

13 Tennessee captured its 13th SEC Championship with the Vols' 24-14 win over Mississippi State in the 1998 SEC Championship Game.

18 Tennessee placed 18 players on this year's SEC Academic Honor Roll with a 3.0 GPA or better.

20 Tennessee finished the 1998 campaign with a 20-game regular season winning streak.

21 All-America linebacker Al Wilson led the Vol defense with 21 Big Plays this season despite missing three games with injury.

24 Tee Martin completed an NCAA record 24 consecutive passes in a two-game period against Alabama and South Carolina. Martin completed his last pass against the Crimson Tide and his first 23 against the Gamecocks. Martin's 23 straight against South Carolina also set an NCAA single-game record.

39 This year's Fiesta Bowl bid was Tennessee's 39th bowl invitation. The 39 bids rank second all-time nationally.

61 Peerless Price led the Vols with 61 catches for 920 yards and 10 touchdowns in 1998. He finished his career ranked third on UT all-time list for receptions (147) and receiving yards (2298).

85.9 Phillip Fulmer's winning percentage as UT's head coach which ranks no. 1 nationally among active coaches (min. 5 seasons). Fulmer is 67-11 in his seventh season as the vols' head coach.

90 Tennessee has amassed an 90-19-2 (.819) during the 1990s, ranking fourth nationally.

371 Jeff Hall set the SEC's all-time scoring record this season with 371 points for his career.

690 Tennessee's all-time victories, which rank 8th nationally (690-286-53)

970 Travis Henry led the Vols with 970 yards rushing this season.

106,914 Tennessee set a school record for attendance in 1998, averaging 106,914, ranking second nationally.

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Fiesta Bowl...

Vols Claim National Crown in 23-16 Victory

Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe, Ariz., Jan. 4, 1999, Game No. 1029 (690-286-53, .696)

You'll always remember where you were the night of Jan. 4, 1999. It was the night Tennessee won the national championship, first since 1951, with a 23-16 victory over Florida State in the 1999 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl before a record crowd of 80,470, which was predominantly bathed in Orange and White and enjoyed the proceedings immensely.

It culminated a storybook season for the Vols, who were not projected as contenders for the big bauble, given the number of players who contributed significantly in 1997, but who were playing on Sunday or otherwise occupied in 1998. What happened surprised everybody, but Tennessee fans will remember this bunch as fondly as any team in the school's history.

You'll remember that it all began for the Vols way back in September in the Carrier Dome at Syracuse when Jeff Hall knocked home the game-winner at the buzzer.

You'll remember that two weeks later Hall booted what proved to be the game-winner against Florida, a kick that set off a wild celebration on Shields-Watkins Field.

You'll remember that Jamal Lewis went out with a knee injury against Auburn, but the two Travises, Stephens and Henry, filled in without missing a beat and the Vols kept winning. Something special was happening.

You'll no doubt remember the improbable finish of the Arkansas game, when the Vols got a break late in the game and cashed it in for the winning score in a 28-24 victory, after they had been given up for dead at 21-3 in the second quarter and even at 24-22 when the Razorbacks had the ball near midfield and less than two minutes left.

You'll remember the sea of Orange and White that dominated Vanderbilt Stadium, the Georgia Dome and the big arena on the campus of Arizona State here tonight, turning these three venues into Gen. Neyland's Stadium west, south and far west, respectively.

The Vols fought the favored Seminoles and their relentless Seminole War Cry all night and won because they simply refused to lose, even when warriors in Orange and White were limping to the sidelines and things seemed bleak.

"We knew we would win this game," senior linebacker and ever-inspirational leader and captain Al Wilson said. "It was just a matter of going out and making plays, and this team has done that all year. It's been a pleasure to play with a bunch of guys who went out and prepared to be the best team on the field every Saturday. That's the attitude we took -- to be the best team every day we stepped on the field -- and that's what set us apart from everybody else."

The Vols got a four-catch, 199-yard performance from the scintillating wideout Peerless Price, who had a 76-yarder to set up the Vols' first score, and a 79-yard scoring play that gave the Vols a 20-9 lead with 9:07 left.

"I felt my team needed a big play," Price said. "We needed another score and the coaches gave me a great opportunity. It was a straight

Tee Martin finished 11-for-18 for 278 yards and two scores; the last which gave the Vols a 14-point margin. Martin also rushed for 19 yards on 10 carries. Photo by Tennessee Sports Photography.

go-route, and I beat the defensive back.

"After I made the catch, I wasn't about to slow down. Tee made a great throw. It couldn't have been more perfect."

Shawn Bryson scored a TD on a 4-yard pass from Tee Martin and made two other big catches in the waning moments of the game, none bigger than a 22-yarder on which the senior from Franklin, N.C., would not be denied as he cashed in a key first down for the Vols.

What can you say about Tee Martin, the junior signal-caller who does nothing but win week after week? He completed 11 of 18 passes for 278 yards and two scores and kept the Vols moving goalward when things might not have been going so well. He's 13-0 as a starter.

The Seminoles are a crusty bunch on defense, but Tee made the plays he had to at exactly the right times. His 79-yard pass to Price on third-and-9 with the Seminole faithful in full roar was a thing of beauty. It came a series after Peerless had lost an apparent TD catch thanks to a marvelous play by a Seminole defender.

"We knew Peerless would be our big play guy," Tee said. "I gave Peerless another chance to come through and he delivered. It was his time. I knew when I threw the ball up there that he would come down with it. That's pretty much what happened."

Defensively, it was Al Wilson who led the way with four tackles and five assists. Dwayne Goodrich, Steve Johnson and Gerald Griffin did the job on FSU's Peter Warrick, holding the talented wideout to one catch for seven yards.

"Warrick was frustrated because he wasn't getting the ball," Johnson said. "You could tell, but we stuck to our game plan. You can tell he's a great player, but there are a lot of great players on our defense. We just stayed aggressive, played him straight-up and went right after him."

The Vols on defense played that way across the board. They had four sacks (Eric Westmoreland, Raynoch Thompson, Billy Ratliff and Darwin Walker), as the Vols poured in from all directions, seemingly at once, on FSU quarterback Marcus Outzen. The Vols also had eight tackles for

The vaunted Vol defense took center stage against the Noles. FSU's talented offense was limited to 215 yards of total offense, and FSU quarterback MarcusOutzen often found this view a familiar site as he was sacked four times and knocked down 18 other times. TSP Photography.

WHAT OTHERS SAID ABOUT THE VOLS...

"Peerless in its pursuit of a national championship, top-ranked Tennessee turned to its defense and big-play offense for a priceless victory last night."
— Bob Thomas, Florida Times-Union

"Finally, Rocky Top isn't just a fight song, but indicative of where the Volunteers really belong. On top."
— Florida Times-Union

"Welcome to the promised land, Tennessee. You have wandered the parched fringes for the last half of this century, lugging your huge following and hungry potential every step of the way. Put those burdens down, men. You have arrived."
— Steve Hummer, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

"Move over, Nebraska. Make room, Penn State. And you, Florida State, get your fumblin', false-startin; overrated butt out of the way. Clear a path, guys, because there's a new member of college football's power elite. They're not exactly new kids on the block and you probably recognize them by the color of their jerseys and that little song they played a zillion times at Sun Devil Stadium, but now it's official: TENNESSEE — NATIONAL CHAMPION."
— David Climer, The Tennessean

"The final sword in the Seminoles' side came on third down with a long arching throw down the right sideline, a perfectly fired pass from Vols' quarterback Tee Martin. The ball landed in the arms of Peerless Price, who was one step ahead of Mario Edwards and (he) ran all the way to Mexico."
— John Nogowski, Tallahassee Democrat

loss (Shaun Ellis, two by Westmoreland, one each by Thompson and Walker, one split between Jeff Coleman and Ratliff, and one each by Corey Terry and Fred White).

"You have to get pressure up front and you have to have guys who can cover great receivers," Walker said. "Once we got in the quarterback's face and got him rattled a little bit, I knew they were in trouble.

"Their receivers were coming back to the huddle complaining because he wasn't getting them the ball. When they start complaining like that, you know you're getting to them."

FSU finished offensively with 253 yards, 108 rushing and 145 passing.

One of the game's biggest plays came from Goodrich, who won Defensive Player of the Game honors despite playing just the first half. He flashed in front of Warrick and pilfered an Outzen pass and headed toward the Orange and White checkerboards in the south end zone

"I sat on the out route," Goodrich said. "I knew it was coming. He didn't get anything on the throw. It was a poor route and a poor throw.

"As a defensive back, running back an interception in a championship game and winning is a dream come true."

His teammates agreed. "We showed we could play them straight-up, man-to-man," Westmoreland said. "The key was to stop the run and make Outzen make big plays. Steve Johnson and Dwayne Goodrich stepped up big against Peter Warrick."

Peerless Price is off to the endzone as part of his Tostitos Fiesta Bowl record 199 yards on four receptions and this all important score in the fourth quarter. Price was named the game's offensive MVP for his performance. Photo by TSP.

Bryson's TD reception in the second period came after the Vols took a Jeff Hall field goal off the board on a roughing the kicker penalty. The payoff came on second down as Tee rolled left and found Bryson in the flat and the senior tailback did the rest. That gave the Vols a lead they would never relinquish, although there were more than a few anxious moments.

Here is perhaps the quote of the night, taken from FSU offensive guard Jason Whitaker: "I can see why nobody won up there in Knoxville. If they can make that much noise just bringing half their stadium, that's unbelievable."

Price, for his part, put the season in its proper perspective. "Something special started happening for us back in the spring," Price said. "We took on the personality of a blue-collar team. We fought for everything we got."

What they have, ladies and gentlemen, is the 1998 national championship. That says it all.

GAME NOTES: Tennessee is 5-2 in bowl games under head coach Phillip Fulmer... David Leaverton had three punts downed inside the 20, with one at the 9 and one at the 1... Former walk-on Tim Sewell blocked a punt... The Vols are 22-17 in bowl games, and are third nationally in wins behind Alabama and USC... It was the Vols' 10th consecutive bowl game, longest current streak in the SEC.

The Vols are the third SEC school to win a national championship in the 1990s, joining Alabama and Florida... Price broke a Vol bowl record for receiving yards, moving past Anthony Hancock's 196 in the 1981 Garden State Bowl against Wisconsin. He was still 26 yards behind Johnny Mills' all-time record of 225 yards against Kentucky in 1966.

The Vols won 13 games for the first time in school history... The Vols are 50-5 in their last 55 games and and 45-5 over the last four years... Best in the nation... The Vols evened their Fiesta Bowl record at 1-1 and their series with Florida State at 1-1... This win was an SEC team's first-ever win in the Fiesta Bowl.

The game marked the end of the line for Vol broadcasters John Ward and Bill Anderson and ABC's Keith Jackson. Ward concluded his game broadcast by saying, "Count it down with me... Five, four, three, two, one. The national champion is clad in Big Orange. Tennessee 23, Florida State 16."

Jackson, for his part, observed, quoting Gen. Neyland, that "touchdowns follow blocking as surely as night follows day."

WEEKEND NOTES: The Men's Basketball Team won over LSU 93-58 in SEC hoops' action...The Men's diving team took part in the Georgia Diving Invitational last weekend at Georgia where Gabi Chereches and Chip Chiappetta claimed second and fifth in the 3M competition and in the 1M Shannon Roy won the individual title, while Chereches and Chiappetta claimed fourth and sixth... The Lady Vols struggled in New York before a crowd of over 15,000, but won 68-54. It was the largest crowd ever to watch a women's basketball game in Madison Square Garden... Lady Vol divers took part at the Georgia Diving Invitational last weekend where they claimed several events. Lizzy Flynt, Jane Woodard and Alicia Ball took first, second and ninth in the 1M diving competition, while Kathy Pesek and Flynt finished second and third as Woodard finished seventh in the 3M competition.

— Volunteers Magazine Staff

Tennessee Statistics vs. Florida State

Team Statistics	TENN	FSU
First Down	16	13
Rushing	4	9
Passing	8	4
Penalty	4	0
Rushing Attempts	45	41
Yards Gained	127	176
Yards Lost	13	68
Net Yards Rushing	114	108
Net Yards Passing	278	145
Passes Attempted	19	22
Passes Completed	11	9
Had Intercepted	2	2
Total Offensive Plays	64	63
Total Net Yards	392	253
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	4-1
Int. Return/Yards	2-74	2-69
Penalties/Yards	9-55	12-110
3rd Down Conversions	1-12	4-15
4th Down Conversions	1-1	1-1
Punts/Average	5-38.0	9-39.8
Punt Returns/Yards	4-34	2-51
Kickoff Returns/Yards	3-43	4-52
Sacks By/Yards	4-31	1-3
Time of Possession	31:10	28:50

SCORE BY QUARTER

FLORIDA ST.	**0**	**9**	**0**	**7 — 16**
TENNESSEE	**0**	**14**	**0**	**9 — 23**

SCORING SUMMARY

2T - Bryson, pass from Martin 4. Hall kick.
Drive: 6 plays, 88 yards, 2:02 possession, 14:05 on clock.
2T - Goodrich, interception return 54. Hall kick.
Drive:13:40 on clock.
2F - McCray, run 1. Kick failed.
Drive:3 plays, 3 yards, 1:18 possession, 8:59 on clock.
2F - Janikowski, FG 34.
Drive: 10 plays, 10 yards, 4:33 possession, 1:17 on clock.
4T - Price, pass from Martin 79. Kick failed.
Drive:3 plays, 80 yards, 1:24 possession, 9:17 on clock.
4T - Hall, FG 23.
Drive: 6 plays, 22 yards, 2:55 possession, 6:01 on clock.
4F - Outzen, run 7. Janikowski kick.
Drive: 5 plays, 49 yards, 2:19 possession, 3:42 on clock.

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

	Att.	Gain	Lost	Net	TD	Long
TENNESSEE						
Stephens	13	61	1	60	0	18
Henry	19	32	4	28	0	9
T. Martin	10	27	8	19	0	20
Bryson	3	7	0	7	0	4
Totals	**45**	**127**	**13**	**114**	**0**	**20**
FLORIDA STATE						
Minor	15	91	8	83	0	23
Warrick	1	11	0	11	0	11
McCray	4	9	0	9	1	7
Coles	2	10	6	4	0	10
Glenn	1	2	0	2	0	2
Outzen	18	53	54	-1	1	10
Totals	*41*	*176*	*68*	*108*	*2*	*23*

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yards	TD	Long
TENNESSEE						
T. Martin	18	11	2	278	2	79
Henry	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	**19**	**11**	**2**	**278**	**2**	**79**
FLORIDA STATE						
Outzen	22	9	2	145	0	39

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

	No.	Yards	TD	Long
TENNESSEE				
Price	4	199	1	79
Bryson	3	34	1	22
Copeland	1	15	0	15
Finlayson	1	14	0	14
Henry	1	9	0	9
C.Wilson	1	7	0	7
Totals	**11**	**278**	**2**	**79**
FLORIDA STATE				
Dugans	6	135	0	39
McCray	1	11	0	11
Warrick	1	7	0	7
Minor	1	-8	0	-8
Totals	*9*	*145*	*0*	*39*

PUNTING

	No.	Yards.	Avg.	LP
TENNESSEE				
Leaverton	5	190	38.0	47
FLORIDA STATE				
Cottrell	9	358	39.8	60

PUNT RETURNS

	Ret	Yds	Avg.	TD	Long
TENNESSEE					
Parker	4	34	8.5	0	17
FLORIDA STATE					
Warrick	1	51	51.0	0	51
Durden	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	*2*	*51*	*25.5*	*0*	*51*

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Ret	Yds	Avg.	TD	Long
TENNESSEE					
Price	2	43	21.5	0	22
FLORIDA STATE					
Durden	3	44	14.7	0	24
McCray	1	8	8.0	0	8
Totals	*4*	*52*	*13.0*	*0*	*24*

FIELD GOALS

	0-29	30-39	40-49	50-60	60+	LK
TENNESSEE						
Hall	1-1	0-1	0-0-	0-0	0-0	23
FLORIDA STATE						
Janikowski	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	34

INTERCEPTIONS

	No	Yds	TD	Long
TENNESSEE				
Goodrich	1	54	1	54
S.Johnson	1	20	0	20
Totals	**2**	**74**	**1**	**54**
FLORIDA STATE				
Gibson	1	43	0	43
Jackson	1	26	0	26
Totals	*2*	*69*	*0*	*43*

Tostitos BRAND
FIESTA BOWL

Fulmer File...

TOSTITOS FIESTA BOWL

The night of Monday, Jan. 4, was a glorious occasion committed to memory by its impact on the lives of everyone associated with University of Tennessee football.

Players, coaches, families, the multitude of Volunteer fans will all remember what we were doing in the hours that were climaxed when our great University nailed down the 1998 National Championship.

Of the 80,000 fans watching the game live at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz., maybe 50,000 or 60,000 were decked out in orange. They will never forget those closing moments during which the Pride of the Southland Marching Band endlessly repeated the magical strains of "Rocky Top," and everyone sang in unison in their seats.

For me, it was an unforgettable scene in the dressing room. There was Gov. Don Sundquist, one of my favorite fishing partners, talking to the squad as he has done so often since he ascended to the Governor's chair four years ago. President Joe Johnson and Athletic Director Doug Dickey were also in the room, their presence a reminder to me how indebted I am for the support our football program receives from our UT administration.

A special treat, also adding to the magnitude of the event, was a visit by Vice President Al Gore, who expressed his pride as a Tennessean in our championship season. He also issued an invitation to visit the White House, an offer I readily accepted on behalf of our team.

What won't be lost in the post-season celebration is the admiration and respect I feel toward this football team because of the character its members showed every step of the way. As coach, I am honored to be a part of the first Vol team to ever win 13 games in a season.

In this championship game against Florida State, as has happened so often this season, we were fighting an uphill battle against a team that was perceived as being stronger than we were. But, that is the reason we play these games. Our squad believed in themselves. They had a rare camaraderie that allowed them to play to their maximum abilities.

The Offensive Most Valuable Player trophy went to Peerless Price, the worthy winner because of two magnificent catches he made. And while I applaud Peerless' contribution, I want to repeat what I have said previously about Tee Martin: I wouldn't trade him for any quarterback in college football. You may have noticed we put the football in Tee's hands when we had to protect our lead in the fourth quarter. He is a good passer, but the thing I like most about Tee is the way he manages the offense. He truly has the heart of a champion.

While passing around accolades, let me say a word about our two coordinators, Randy Sanders and John Chavis. Randy broke into his new job as offensive coordinator in great style, taking on a defensive giant and producing a credible performance for an unforgettable debut. Coach Chavis' defense again came through with the kind of play that reflects John's intense personality. I appreciate everything this coaching staff has contributed with its hard work and dedication.

Most of all, though, I can't wait until Jan. 30, the date of our welcome home celebration, to thank this special group of men who donned the Orange with pride for giving us a football season that will forever be one of the landmark achievements in University of Tennessee athletic lore.

—Phillip Fulmer

"While passing around accolades, let me say a word about our two coordinators, Randy Sanders and John Chavis. Randy broke into his new job as offensive coordinator in great style, taking on a defensive giant and producing a credible performance for an unforgettable debut. Coach Chavis' defense again came through with the kind of play that reflects John's intense personality. I appreciate everything this coaching staff has contributed with its hard work and dedication."

— Phillip Fulmer

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Tennessee Tradition...

Ben Byrd on the Vols - The Bowls Have Come a Long Way

The first bowl game ever played was a disaster. The sponsors of the Tournament of Roses holiday festival in Pasadena, Calif., thought it would be a good idea to mix in a post-season college football game with the other festivities, and so it was arranged for Michigan, then the monster of the Midwest, to play the top Pacific Coast team, Stanford, on New Year's Day of 1902.

After it was all over, it didn't seem to be all that good an idea. Mighty Michigan all but disemboweled the hapless Indians, 49-0, thus running its 1901 season's record to 11-0-0. In those 11 games the Wolverines, led by all-time All-America back Willie Heston, outscored the opposition 550 points to zero! The sponsors decided to go back to parades and flower shows.

But the Rose Bowl wasn't dead; it was only sleeping. Fourteen years later, it popped up again, on New Year's Day of 1916. Washington State upheld the pride of the West with a 14-0 triumph over Brown, and this time the noble experiment succeeded. Since then every new year, even in wartime, has been greeted by another Rose Bowl.

But the impact of the Pasadena event was to go far beyond the reaches of Southern California. After two decades in which the Rose Bowl was the only game in town, it began to dawn on other warm-weather communities that a post-season college football game might help their own holiday tourism business.

In 1935, two new bowls debuted. A New Orleans hometown hero Monk Simons led Tulane to a 20-14 victory over Temple in the first Sugar Bowl game. (Simons later became the longtime executive director of the Sugar Bowl). And in Miami, the Orange Bowl was christened by Bucknell's 26-0 win over the Miami Hurricanes.

The bowl craze was on. The Sun Bowl at El Paso showed up in 1936, and the Cotton Bowl made its first appearance in Dallas in 1937. The Gator and the Tangerine (now Florida Citrus) popped up right after World War II, along with several others that never quite made it. The Oil Bowl, the Great Lakes Bowl and the Cigar Bowl now live only in sad memory. By now, 97 years after that first Rose Bowl venture, we have over 20 bowls, in various stages of financial health, to help us whittle away the holiday hours.

Tennessee fans can be proud of their school's contribution to bowl history. Vol teams under seven different head coaches have played in 38 bowl games since 1939, winning 21 and losing 17. And UT has helped at least one post-season classic, the Orange, attain major bowl status. The 1938 Tennessee appearance in the Orange against a similarly perfect record Oklahoma team was the first time the Miami event had ever paired two teams of national championship status. The Vols' 17-0 triumph still stands as a milestone win for the Big Orange program.

The Vols have played in three subsequent Orange Bowls, in 1947 when the old single wing offense couldn't squirt a drop in an 8-0 loss to Rice, in 1968 when a late rally fell two points shy in a 26-24 loss to Oklahoma and last year when Nebraska dominated the Vols 42-17.

The Sugar Bowl has been Tennessee's most frequently visited post-season venue. The Vols have played seven times in New Orleans, winning four and losing three. In other major bowls, they are 0-2 in the Rose, 2-2 in the Cotton and 0-1 in the Fiesta.

The new Bowl Championship Series which went into effect four years ago has drastically redrawn the old bowl configuration that we all knew and loved so well.

I will be glad to explain the alliance as soon as somebody explains it to me, but basically it is an arrangement between the Orange, Sugar, Rose, and Fiesta Bowls and the SEC, Big 10, Big 12, ACC, Pac-10, and the Big East conferences and independent Notre Dame to try to arrive at a national championship game. This year the big change came about with the BCS based on computer numbers. The two top-ranked teams available each year will be paired against each other with the venue rotated among the four bowls. This year's turn belongs to the Fiesta Bowl.

The push for an official national championship playoff gets stronger each year, and I suspect it will come to pass in the fairly near future. When it happens, I hope it will be conducted within the existing bowl structure as nearly as possible. The bowls have meant too much to college football for college football to turn away from them now.

Former Vol

Bobby Scott (1968-70)

Bobby Scott came to UT from Rossville, Ga., and quarterbacked SEC championship teams in 1969 and 1970. He was 20-3 as a starter.

Going into 1998, he was seventh on the all-time Tennessee passing list, completing 236 of 498 passes for 3371 yards and 32 scores.

He threw for 385 yards in the 1970 Florida game, a record which stood until the 1985 UCLA game, when Tony Robinson threw for 387 yards. Scott also had an 82-yard TD toss to Lester McClain in the 1969 Memphis State game.

Scott later played for the New Orleans Saints in the NFL, alongside a quarterback by the name of Archie Manning.

Scott also made a significant contribution to the 1997 and 1998 Vol squads, what with his son, Benson, inheriting his father's jersey No. 10 and serving as Jeff Hall's holder for field goals and extra points.

Scott now lives in Knoxville and works for Balfour's.

Bobby Scott (left) is shown with former Vol Don McLeary in a 1970s publicity shot at Neyland Stadium.

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Faces in Big Orange Country

A fifth-year senior, **Jarvis Reado** (a Marrero, La., native) has been counted on to provide stability and leadership to the offensive line. Reado suffered a broken ankle during the Florida game in 1996 and still felt some effects from that injury last season. Reado has fought through numerous other injuries during his collegiate career and has been a stalwart on an offensive line that lead the conference in rushing yards per game (211 yards per game). Not only has his run-blocking been a key factor, but so has his ability to block for the Vol quarterback (Tee Martin) who began the season with no collegiate career starts. Reado came to Tennessee as a highly-touted offensive lineman, rated among the nation's best.

One of the most well-known athletes, male or female, to wear the Orange of Tennessee, **Chamique Holdsclaw,** is in the final year of her storied collegiate career. The Astoria, N.Y., native has led the Lady Vols to three consecutive NCAA titles and has a chance to add an unprecedented fourth-straight crown in 1999. The three-time All-America, two-time Final Four MVP and recipient of nearly every award basketball has to offer, Holdsclaw became the Lady Vols' all-time leading scorer and rebounder this season and has propelled Tennessee to a 10-1 start and number-two national ranking by averaging nearly 22 points and nine boards per game. Since she was an eighth grader, a season has never ended without her team winning a championship.

Ron Green could be characterized as a "Gentle Giant" because his demeanor is not that of many defensive lineman. Withthe size and strength to stop an opposing team's running attack, Green finished last season with 31 tackles. This season, Green registered 22 tackles and two quarterback sacks. His best game of the season could be considered the Florida game where he had five tackles on a defensive unit that held Florida to -13 yards rushing (second lowest total in school history). The Severna Park, Md., product has also been known to exercise his other talents, most notably his singing ability. Green has performed the national anthem at various men's and women's basketball games, and is often asked to perform at area churches and community functions. Green earned his bachelor's degree this past December.

Lady Vol sprinter **Kelli White** enters her senior year as one of the most decorated track and field athletes Tennessee has ever had. The product of James Logan High School in Oakland, Calif., White already has nine All-America certificates to her credit and is poised to add to that total in 1999. As a junior, she brought home four All-America citations and inked her name in the UT record books, forging program bests in the 55 and 60 meters indoors and the 100 and 200 meters outdoors. Additionally, she holds the Stokely Athletics Center 55m standard and anchored the 4x100m relay unit which posted a Gatorade Classic record last spring.

This Week In Big Orange Country

When Tennessee fans walked into the Georgia Dome on Dec. 5, they had to feel as if they were at home. All they had to do was to look into the south endzone from the first level to the the third to see nothing but Orange.

Orange as in Tennessee shakers.

The big question was how did they get there?

Having ridden down to Atlanta with the cheerleading squad and 20 members of the VASF Collegiate Club, several members of this magazine's staff got to see first hand how a stadium can be transformed from a neutral site into a home away from home.

It began early that Saturday morning when the Pep Club members began filing into Stokely Athletic Center around 8 a.m. Members began carting boxes, 31 to be exact, to the west side of the facility for loading onto the bus.

That in itself was fairly easy. Once they got to the Georgia Dome, then the real work would begin.

The 20 who were chosen to go were some of the lucky students who won UT's well-intended student ticket lottery system. Student pep club members work before home football and basketball games putting out shakers and making banners that hang at the stadium and arena.

After a stop for lunch north of Atlanta, final plans were given out to the members by our Steve Sams, who spearheads the group. Rob Hardin and I were along for the ride until game time, or so we thought.

Upon arrival at the Dome around 2 p.m., everyone - including Rob and I - pitched in to tote the 31 boxes into the stadium. That was easy. It was the distribution of the 15,500 shakers that took some time.

Each student began by claiming sections of seats that were assigned to Tennessee by the SEC, and began placing shakers on the chairbacks of every seat. Side note: The Mississippi State cheerleading squad also set out shakers, but there were not as many (only 11,000) and they were placed in the molded cupholders - out of sight.

This mammoth project took a little more than three hours to complete. Once done, it was as if an artist had dipped his brush into an orange river and dotted the once green seats with splashes of Tennessee Orange.

When the band began its pregame routine, the shakers were visible. It was an awe-inspiring sight.

The shakers became most visible when Cedrick Wilson caught Tee Martin's second touchdown pass late in the fourth quarter. Looking southward, it was like an Orange wave that had silenced the Bulldog faithful.

For 54 minutes of play the shakers were sparingly used, but you could not find an open slot in the Tennessee section where someone did not have a shaker rocking like a palm tree in a hurricane.

Just thought you should know how those wonderful Orange and White shakers made their way into your seats at the Georgia Dome as well as at every home game in the Tennessee student sections.

—Donnell Field

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VASF & MARKETING NEWS

1999 Fund Drive has Kicked Off

The 1999 Volunteer Athletic Scholarship Fund Drive has kicked off. Here are the dates and cities for the remaining kickoff meetings. Places and times will be available directly from the VASF office by dialing (423) 974-1218, and past Fund Drive workers will be contacted.

Remaining 1999 Fund Drive kickoff meetings will be held Jan. 11 in Kingsport, Jan. 12 in Memphis, Jan. 13 in Nashville and Jan. 14 in Chattanooga.

If you are interested in working with the 1999 Volunteer Athletic Scholarship Fund Drive, which runs from January until March, contact Bill Myers in the VASF office at (423) 974-1218. Fund Drive workers help the VASF encourage renewals and recruit new members into the VASF. Workers are divided into geographic teams. Both team and individual prizes are available.

Some of the prizes in the past few years have included away football and bowl trips, televisions and other electronics, and the team prize: the opportunity to "run through the 'T'" before a home football game in 1999 before 106,000 or so of your closest friends.

Free Basketball Shuttle is Provided This Season

The athletic department provides a courtesy shuttle between the Agricultural Campus and Thompson-Boling Arena for all regular season home basketball games. Please note that there are some available "pay-to-park" lots on the main campus on weekends, but not on week nights due to University evening classes. The majority of "pay-to-park" spaces for the 1998-99 season are available on the Agricultural Campus.

1999 VASF Donation Reminders are in the Mail

In December, the VASF sent 1999 renewal cards to all donors. In 1998, supporters of Tennessee student-athletes contributed more than $9.1 million for the betterment of Tennessee athletics. The goal for 1999 is to repeat the feat. Help to continue the continuous pursuit of academic and athletic excellence. Call the VASF office at (423) 974-1218 to charge your efforts toward the 1999 donation goals by phone with a Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card.

Gift Acknowledgements and Tax Summaries

Please keep your acknowledgement letter that the VASF sends after each gift is made. The VASF only sends tax acknowledgement letters as the gifts are received. There will NOT be an end-of-the-year letter stating all tax-year contributions. Contact the Athletic Development office at (423) 974-1218 for more details.

VASF Donor Deadline is March 1

The deadline for contributions for priority on football benefits, including home season tickets, is March 1. The contributions must be received in the VASF office by March 1. Now is a great time to go ahead and make your 1999 contribution and help the VASF reach the goals for the 1999 donor year.

Baseball Season Ticket Information

The 1999 Tennessee baseball season is quickly approaching. This year's version of coach Rod Delmonico's charges will be a fresh set of new faces. Their first home game will be Feb. 26 as part of a three-game series against the University of Louisville Cardinals.

The 1999 season ticket applications were mailed and the renewal deadline is Jan. 15. Contact the Ticket Office at (423) 656-1200 if you did not receive your renewal form.

For more information regarding baseball tickets, or to be placed on the mailing list for a 1999 baseball season ticket application, please call Chip Bryant in the Marketing Office at (423) 974-1734.

Baseball Banquet

The 1999 Leadoff Banquet is approaching. Reserve your tickets today for the Feb. 1 event to be held at Thompson-Boling Arena. Former Los Angeles Dodgers centerfielder Brett Butler will be this year's keynote speaker. Tickets are $25 per person or $200 for a table seating eight. Corporate tables are $275 for seven guests and one Vol baseball player or coach. Corporate table-holders also receive a special pre-banquet reception with Butler. The food will be catered by Calhoun's of Knoxville. For more information or to reserve your space, call the Marketing Office at (423) 974-1734.

The 1999 O'Charley's Tennis Classic

The University of Tennessee will host the annual O'Charley's Tennis Classic at the UT Indoor Tennis Center on Jan. 30-31. This is a great event that gives everyone a chance to come support the No. 12 Volunteer netters. Admission is free and the events run all day on both days. William & Mary, Indiana and Wake Forest are slated to take on the Vols during this weekend. Contact Nathan Kirkham in the Sports Information Office at (423) 974-1212 for more information.

Aqua Vols Throw You the Towel

The nationally-ranked Tennessee men's swimming and diving teams host the nationally-ranked Georgia Bulldogs on Jan. 30 at the Student Aquatic Center. The Volunteers are 163-6 all-time in home meets since the center opened.

The first 300 fans will receive a free beach towel compliments of Sea Ray Boats. Admission is free and the meet begins at 1 p.m. Contact Josh Thurman of the Sports Information Office at (423) 974-1212 for more details.

Court for Sale

Volunteer fans, the University of Tennessee is selling the playing court from Thompson-Boling Arena. The pieces come in five different sizes and are mounted on a plaque. There are five sizes from which to choose. If you want more information on how you can obtain a piece of Big Orange Country Tennessee Basketball history, call toll free (877)-UT-COURT (882-6878).

—Compiled by Steve Sams

The Lady Vols took to the court for five games over the Christmas and New Year's holidays as they upped their record to 11-1 with a showdown against the nation's No. 1 team and the team's biggest rival, UConn on Jan. 10 in Storrs, Conn., on the horizon.

LADY VOLS 92, MISSISSIPPI 51

An 18-point halftime lead swelled to a 41-point margin of victory as Tennessee traveled to Oxford, Miss., to take on the Ole Miss Rebels.

The Lady Vols did not shoot well in the first half, but used a smothering defense to force 30 Ole Miss turnovers (14 in the first half) in the blowout. Tennessee also held Ole Miss to 25.9 percent shooting for the night. On the other hand, Tennessee finished shooting 50.8 percent from the floor after being below 50 percent in the first half.

Tamika Catchings led all scorers with 20 points while Chamique Holdsclaw (see story on p. 11 in Faces in Big Orange Country) finished the night with 19. The Lady Vols had a total of five players in double figures as Kristen Clement added 13, Semeka Randall had 10 and Niya Butts tallied 11 points in 16 minutes of action. Walk-on Sarah Edwards scored a career high five points in a reserve role.

Another tell-tale sign of the pressure that the Rebels faced were the 17 steals forced by the Lady Vols to go with six blocked shots and the 48-39 rebounding advantage the Lady Vols enjoyed.

LADY VOLS 100, UCLA 77

1998 NCAA Champion and No. 2-ranked Tennessee Lady Vols showed their 1998 form as they overpowered eighth-ranked UCLA in Thompson-Boling Arena. UCLA shot out to a 4-0 lead quickly but Tennessee regained control of the game jumping out to a 24-10 lead and built that into a 55-30 halftime advantage as UT shot a 62.5 percent clip from the floor. The second half was a bit more evenly matched, but Tennessee fought off every UCLA run with up-tempo defense and rebounding. For the game, Tennessee shot 55 percent and outrebounded the Bruins 46-30, while registering 13 steals and 4 blocks, three by freshman post Michelle Snow. She had another solid night registering a double-double with 14 points and 10 boards, but it was the Holdsclaw with the offensive prowess registering 29 points and 12 boards. Also in double figures for the Lady Vols were Catchings 16, Randall 14, and Clement with 11.

LADY VOLS 98, STANFORD 62

The last time Stanford came to Knoxville they left with a 82-65 win marking the first and only time UT had lost consecutive home contests. On this night, UT would exact its revenge harshly by pounding the 4-6 Cardinal 98-62 in front of 15,312 at Thompson-Boling Arena.

The Lady Vols came out and played their best half of the year in opening up a 23-4 lead with 10 minutes gone. The Lady Vol attack widened the lead to an astounding 53-15 as Holdsclaw, Catchings and Randall had double figure first half totals.

Stanford's 15 first half points rank as the 11th lowest all time against Tennessee.

The second half Stanford opened up offensively and challenged UT playing them to a 47-45 half, but the damage had been done. The Big Orange improved their overall mark to 8-1 with the win.

Catchings led the UT attack which saw all 11 players score, matching her jersey number with 24 points. Holdsclaw would finish the night with 17 while Randall and Clement added 16 and 14 respectively. Holdsclaw also grabbed 10 boards to lead the team.

LADY VOLS 82, ARKANSAS 62

Chamique Holdsclaw became Tennessee's all-time leading scorer with her first bucket of the game against Arkansas. She broke the record of 2,450 points set by Bridgette Gordon.

Then Holdsclaw added 21 more points for good measure to lead second-ranked Tennessee to a 82-62 victory in its Southeastern Conference opener.

Holdsclaw's record setting shot came on a 3-pointer that gave the Lady Vols a 3-2 lead just 47 seconds into the game. After Arkansas took a 4-3 lead, Holdsclaw hit a free-throw and Tennessee (7-1, 1-0) never trailed again.

Holdsclaw and Catchings combined to key a 13-0 run opening the second half as Tennessee built a comfortable 27-point lead.

Ahead 39-25 at halftime, Holdsclaw hit a layup after the Lady Vols inbounds pass. A few seconds later, Catchings made a driving layup.

On Tennessee's next possession, Catchings fed Randall the ball for a jumper. Then Randall stole the ball and Catchings made another layup, prompting Arkansas (6-5, 0-1) to call a time out at 18:20.

Tennessee led 52-25 before Lonniya Bragg hit a jumper for Arkansas' first points of the second half at 17:13.

Both teams shot 38 percent from the field, but Tennessee capitalized on fouls and turnovers. The Lady Vols made 25-of-38 from the free throw line, compared to just 9-15 for the Lady Razorbacks.

Tennessee also scored 31 points off of Arkansas' 20 turnovers. Arkansas mustered just five points off Tennessee's 14 turnovers. The Lady Vols also outrebounded Arkansas, 56-22.

Sytia Messer scored 17 points and was the only Arkansas player to score in double digits. Arkansas played without leading scorer Karyn Karlin, who has an injured foot, and lost Tennille Adams when she fouled out at the 13:41 mark.

Arkansas pulled to within five when Wendi Willits hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 6:15 left in the first half.

But Tennessee responded with eight straight points to take a 29-16 lead. Holdsclaw accounted for half the points during the run.

Catchings finished with 18 points, Randall had 13 and Snow added 10 for Tennessee.

—Lady Vol Media Relations

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *Coverage of Tennessee's Jan. 3 game against the Rutgers Scarlet Knights in New York City's Madison Square Garden is included in the weekend notes section of the football game story on pages 4-7 of this issue.)*

Michelle Snow got her first start of the season in the win over Ole Miss. Snow scored five points and had three rebounds in her first start.

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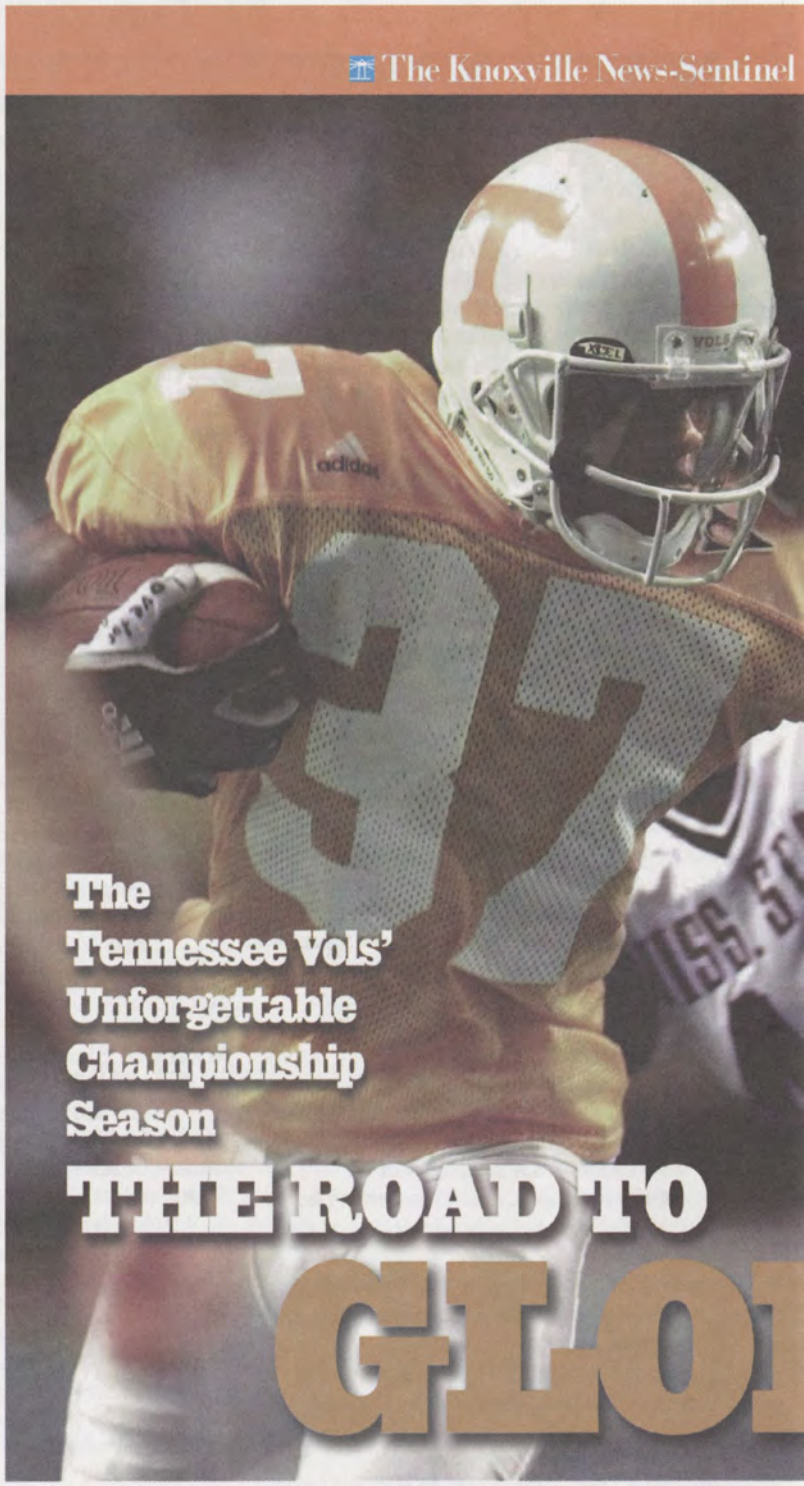

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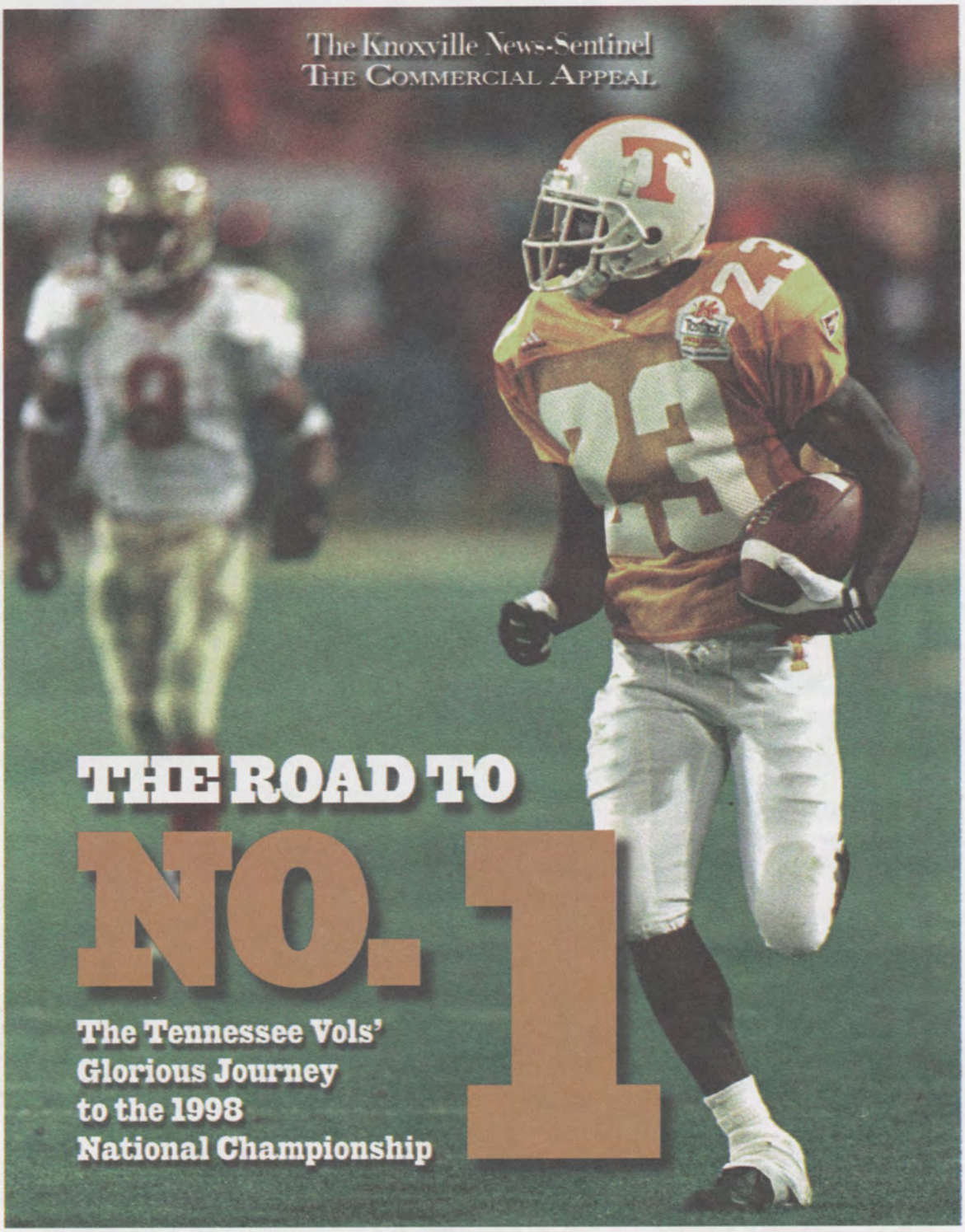

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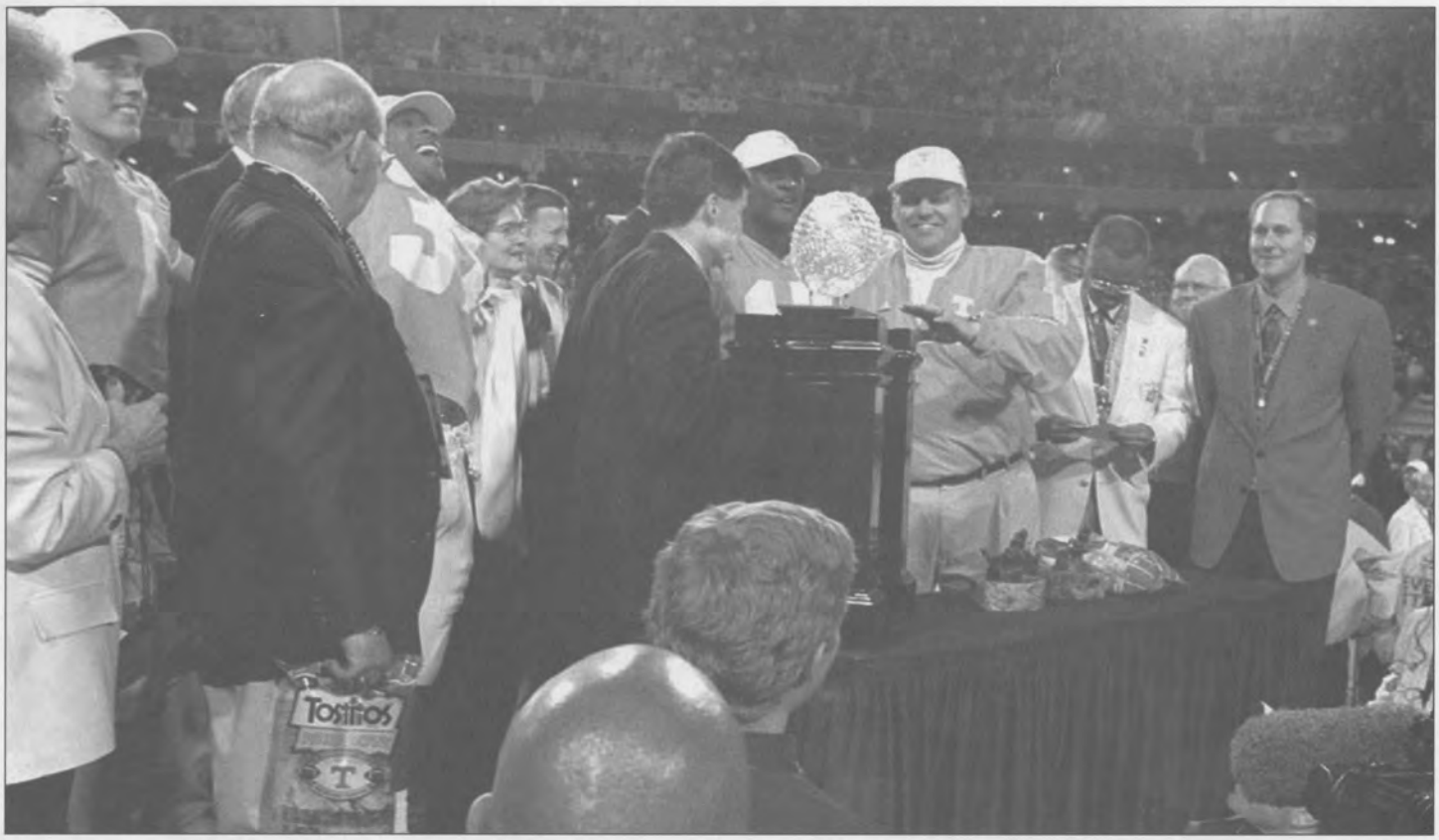
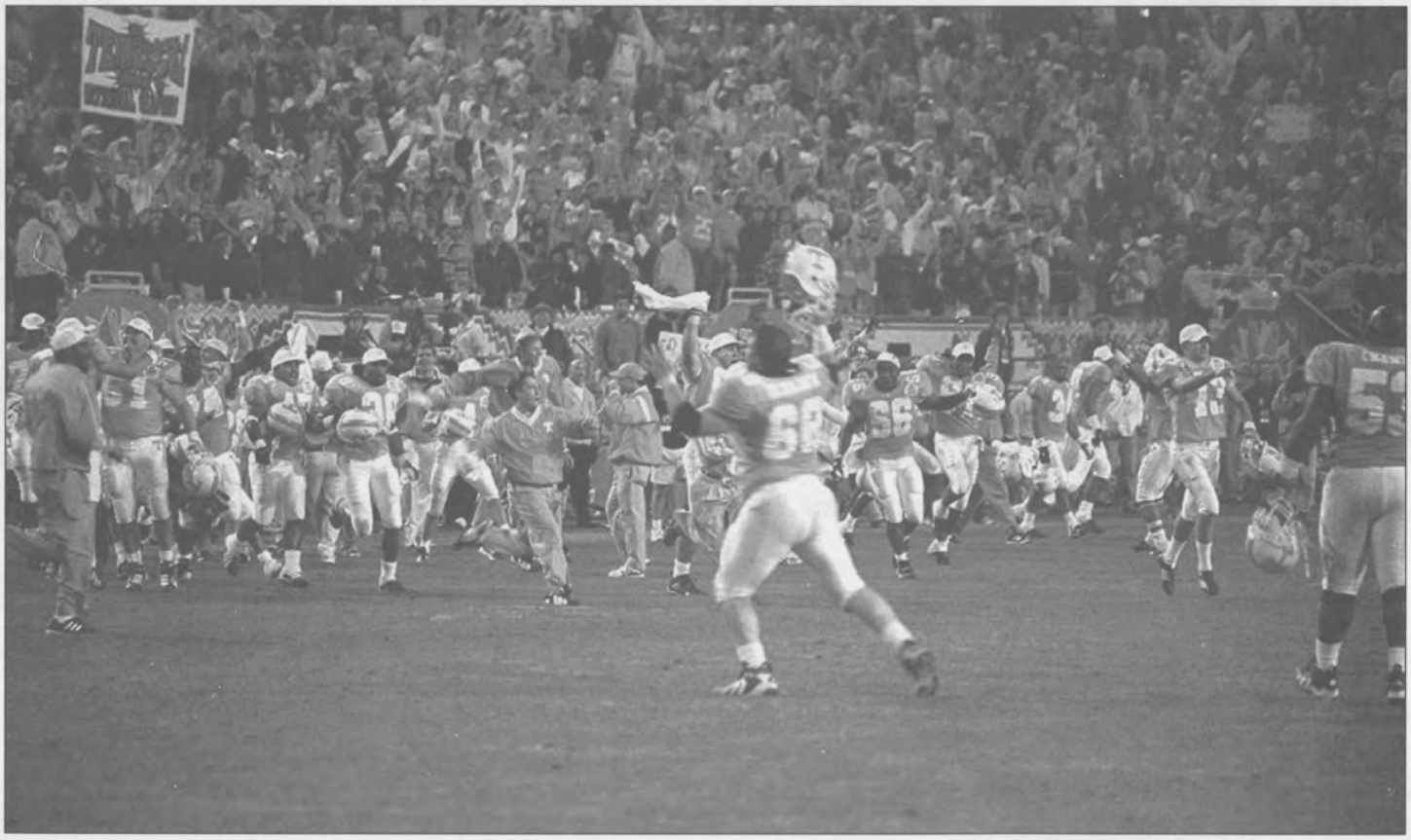


(Above) Coach Phillip Fulmer along with (from left to right) Jeff Hall, UT President Joe Johnson, Peerless Price and Tee Martin stand at the podium following the victory to receive the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl trophy and the Sears and Roebuck National Championship trophy. (Below) Vol players swarm the field to celebrate the school's first national title since 1951 as thousands of Vol faithful remained in the stadium for the awards presentation. Photos courtesy of Tennessee Sports Photography.



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~ PRESENTS ~

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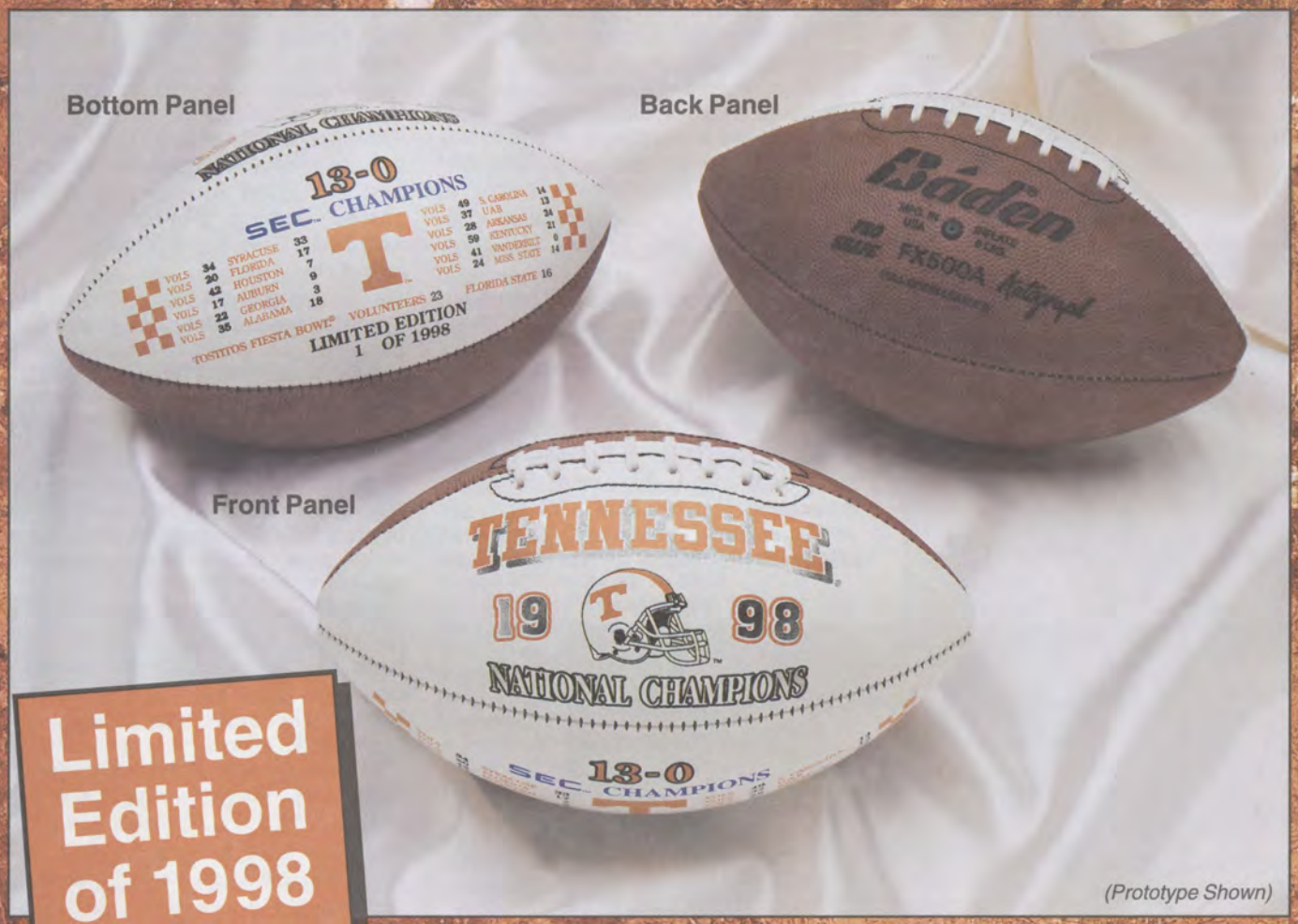

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In a span of just over three minutes, a 9-6 Tennessee lead over Auburn turned into a 23-9 deficit.

The final result was a 90-62 victory for the Tigers Jan. 2 at Memorial Coliseum.

Tony Harris got the Vols going by hitting a 3-pointer and a jumper to start the game. Auburn then got going when Bryant Smith hit a 3-pointer to tie score at 9. The 17-pointer run ended with back-to-back 3-pointers by Scott Pohlman and Reggie Sharp. Tennessee never recovered.

"They're certainly an excellent basketball team," Jerry Green said. "There's not a statistic I can find that shows we played the way we wanted to play. Auburn had a great deal to do with that. Coach Ellis has done a great job in putting together this basketball team."

Tennessee committed 28 turnovers and was beaten on the boards 57-30. Auburn also had its way on the offensive boards by grabbing 29 offensive rebounds. Tennessee was limited to 12.

"We could have played a lot harder and could have gotten a lot more loose balls and rebounds, but the bottom line is we didn't," Isiah Victor said. "They wanted it more and that's been the story several times this year."

The Tigers placed five players in double figures led by Smith's 20. Chris Porter had 17 and a game-high 13 rebounds.

Harris had 16 points and five assists for Tennessee, and Victor added 11 before fouling out.

"We're not as bad as we played," Aaron Green said. "We're going to treat this as one game, which is what it is. We can play better. We know that."

Before opening Southeastern Conference play, the Vols picked up wins over UNC-Greensboro and South Florida.

Tennessee rolled over Greensboro 92-60 Dec. 22 at Thompson-Boling Arena behind 18 points from Vincent Yarbrough and 17 from Brandon Wharton.

Tennessee turned a 7-point lead into a 20-point lead at the end of the first half and beginning of the second half.

Green hit a 3-pointer to end the first half to give the Vols a 38-26 lead. Greensboro was unable to inbound the ball to start the second half, and Tennessee gained possession. Yarbrough then opened the second-half scoring with a jam on an ally-oop pass from Harris.

The Vols led by as many as 33 in the second half.

Also helping the Vols was the breaking of a slump by Wharton. He had struggled in the previous four games but went 6-of-8 from the field and 3-of-4 from 3-point range to break out of the slump.

Tennessee got its first road victory of the season Dec. 19 against South Florida.

Yarbrough led the Vols with 23 points in the 75-68 victory.

"We've been waiting for Vincent to get going," Jerry Green said. "He gets more comfortable and confident every day. "He's still not where he's going to be, but he's putting it in the hole and right now, that's exactly what we need."

Tennessee led by as many as 14 in the second half, but the Bulls battled back to the tie the game and force overtime. The Vols took over in the extra period and never trailed.

TENNESSEE (8-4)

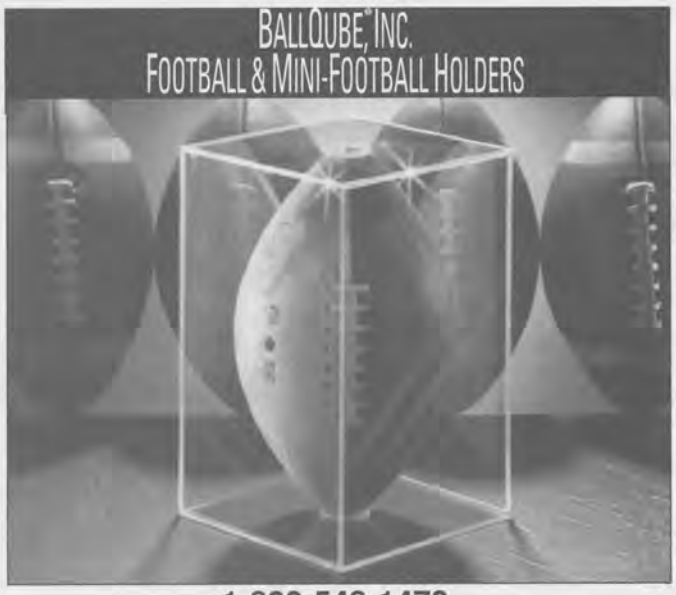
Yarbrough 4-10 0-0 9, Black 3-6 0-1 6, Hathaway 1-2 1-2 3, Tony Harris 5-13 3-5 16, Wharton 3-7 0-1 7, Lee 0-1 0-0 0, Green 1-3 6-7 8, Baker 1-3 0-0 2, Davis 0-1 0-0 0, Torrey Harris 0-0 0-0 0, Victor 3-8 4-6 11. Totals 21-54 14-22 62.

AUBURN (13-0)

Porter 6-14 5-8 17, Smith 6-12 6-9 20, N'diaye 4-6 3-4 11, Pohlman 6-15 1-2 15, Robinson 1-6 0-0 2, Sharp 4-6 0-1 10, Heard 1-3 2-2 5, Barker 0-1 0-0 0, Watkins 1-1 0-0 3, Fishback 0-3 0-0 0, McGadney 0-3 0-0 0, Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Chilliest 3-4 1-2 7, Person 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 32-75 18-28 90.

Halftime—Auburn 52, Tennessee 32. 3-Point goals—Tennessee 6-19 (Yarbrough 1-3, Tony Harris 3-8, Wharton 1-2, Green 0-2, Baker 0-1, Davis 0-1, Victor 1-2). Auburn 8-22 (Porter 0-1, Smith 2-3, Pohlman 2-5, Robisnon 0-2, Sharp 2-4, Barker 0-1, Watkins 1-1, Fishback 0-2, Person 0-1). Fouled out—Victor, Wharton, N'diaye. Rebounds—Tennessee 30 (Black 6), Auburn 57 (Porter 13). Assists—Tennessee 9 (Tony Harris 5), Auburn 19 (Robinson 7). Total fouls—Tennessee 26, Auburn 23. A—10,108.

—Volunteers Magazine Staff



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The Last Word...

LOOKING BACK... GENE TORMOHLEN

He walked into the Ray Mears Room at Thompson-Boling Arena one night, all 6-9 of him, and one of the younger media types in the room asked, to no one in particular, "Who's that?" he didn't know who the man was, but he knew, at that size, he had to be somebody.

One of the veterans of Vol basketball wars, perhaps Russ Bebb, said simply, "That's Gene Tormohlen."

For us old guys, like me, that said it all. Gene Tormohlen, the pride of Holland, Ind., the raw-boned youngster Emmett Lowery found in the early-to-mid 1950s and hoped beyond hope no one else would discover him.

Tormohlen became a Vol and finished his career with 1020 points and 1113 boards, one of only three men, Carl Widseth and Bernard King being the others, to average double-figure points and rebounds over his career. That's pretty good company.

He played in what might be called the Pleistocene Era of Vol basketball back in the days of Alumni Gym and the Armory Fieldhouse, back when there was no ESPN SportsCenter and no dawn-to-dawn coverage of college hoops.

Most people today remember Alumni Gym as the site of fraternity games, the Phi Sigs versus the Kappa Sigs maybe, but there was some excellent basketball played there and Gene Tormohlen was a part of it.

"Gene's talent was raw, but he had it," Lowery said years later. "John Sines saw him win a high school tournament game by driving in and stuffing it two-handed in the last second of play, and was sold on him.

"When we got him, he was a big teddy bear of a boy, growing fast, and he had not played in a real fast league in high school.

"As a freshman and sophomore, he would flail away under the basket, fouling everybody in sight. But he was an awfully good boy, and he smoothed out tremendously in his last two years, which is one reason we were able to come out with good won-lost records."

In Big Gene's three years as a Vol (1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59), the Vols finished 13-9, 16-7 and 15-8. He was a two-time All-SEC selection and was an All-America in his senior season of 1959. He played with the old Syracuse Nationals in 1960-63, the St. Louis Hawks in 1963-68 and the Atlanta Hawks in 1969-70. He was an assistant coach with the Hawks and is now a scout with the Los Angeles Lakers.

It is interesting to note that no Vol has dominated the boards quite like Tormohlen. His 384 rebounds his junior season is a Vol record that stands today, surviving the onslaught of King, Red Robbins, Rob Jones and Dyron Nix. Big Gene is first with 384 in 1957-58, second with 372 in 1958-59, and fourth on the Vol all-time list with 357 in his sophomore season. That says a lot about his impact on the boards.

He leads the career rebounding list with 1113, 69 ahead of King, the season average list with 17.7 in 1958-59, and the career average list with a 16.9 average.

Sixteen times he had 22 or more boards in a game. He had 31 against Mississippi State in 1957. He scored 15 points and had 17 rebounds -- while playing with a cut that required stitches on his shooting hand finger -- when Tennessee ended a six-game losing streak at Vanderbilt in 1958.

Big Gene's final season was the first for the Vols in the old Armory-Fieldhouse, after spending his first two years at the old Alumni Gym. The Vols opened that season against West Virginia, losing the lidlifter 76-72 as Jerry West scored 44 points. Tormohlen fouled out with 10 minutes to go and the Vols on top.

The most dramatic moment came in a late season game against Auburn, who came to Knoxville with a 21-1 record and ranked No. 2 in the country.

It was the era in which Joel Eaves' team played the famous "Auburn Shuffle." The Vols played the "Shuffle" to a standstill and jumped on top early.

The dramatic moment came in the second half when, as Ben Byrd wrote in *The Basketball Vols,* "Tormohlen hit the deck in a spectacular collision with Auburn's Rex Frederick, went into convulsions, and was taken to the hospital with a brain concussion. The Tigers began to cut into the lead."

In all my years of watching Vol basketball, I remember no other time when the arena hushed as quickly as it did that night.

Tormohlen missed the season finale with Kentucky a few nights later, but had already inscribed his name into Vol history with a never-say-die attitude, particularly on the glass.

"I was a good rebounder," Tormohlen remembered. "I used technique. I positioned myself properly and studied the flight of the ball in anticipation of where it would bounce off the backboard or rim."

Gene Tormohlen played at and above the rim during his time at Tennessee and was a rebounder who gave no quarter. Look at the Vol record books and you'll find his name front and center. He was that type player.

That was in college. He said the pros were a different matter.

"But after I got into the NBA, I discovered I was not as good as I thought. There were only eight teams in the league then, which meant I had to go head-to-head with Wilt Chamberlain and Bill Russell every week or so. That brought me down to earth."

That said, here's what Byrd wrote about "Big Gene" at the end of his Vol career in 1959:

"There will be others just as big, maybe bigger. Some will shoot better, some will play defense better, some run more gracefully. But when there is elbow-flying, rib-thumping, eyeball-scratching action under the boards, you can lay long odds that there won't be another Gene Tormohlen. Not for a long, long time."

Byrd is right. Gene Tormohlen was one of a kind. No doubt about it.

—Tom Mattingly

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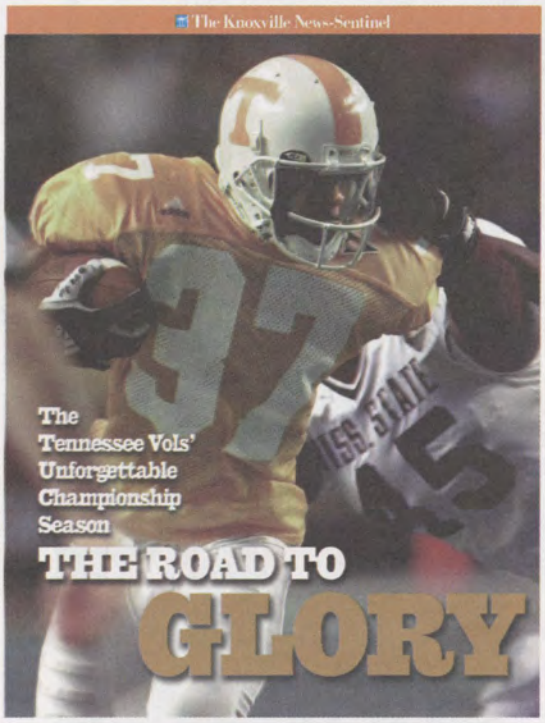

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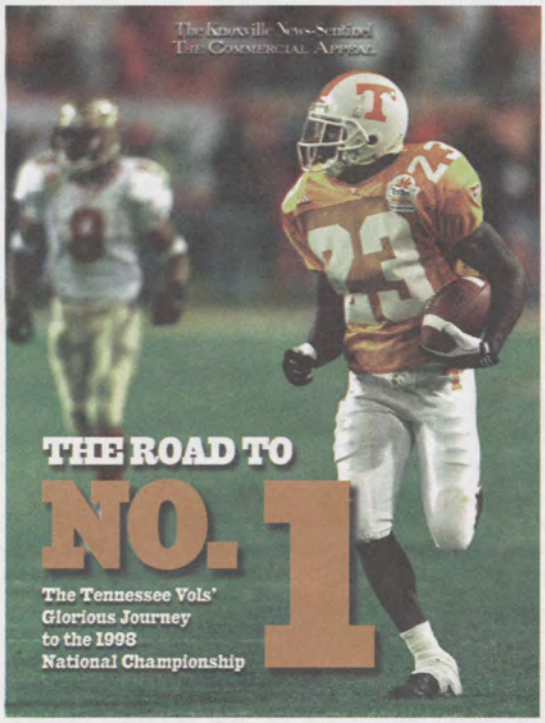

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